

David Satcher, the 16th Surgeon General of the United States.

Through these speakers, as in past years, the Madison Civics Club celebrates the enduring freedoms our nation has sustained and nurtured, building a civil society for more than 200 years. America has built a legacy of justice, freedom and hope that will be heralded through the Madison Civics Club in its 90th year.

As the representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Wisconsin, I wish the Madison Civics Club officers and members, and its past and upcoming speakers, all the best as they continue their exemplary tradition of molding a civic conscience that builds communities and benefits all.

#### RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHARLES L. BRIMM

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2002*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Charles L. Brimm, from Dupo, Illinois.

Charlie Brimm has been an influential leader in the Dupo, Illinois V.F.W., Post 6368, for years now. His past positions include 14th District Commander from 1992 to 1993, Jr. Vice Commander, and Sr. Vice Commander of the Department of Illinois. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Brimm on his recently named position as Department Commander of the State of Illinois.

Service in the military, the police force, county deputies office, and organizations like the Shiners have made Charles Brimm a fixture of law enforcement and an upholder of the law, as well as a caring individual. Through his leadership and efforts to improve the community, Charlie has had a positive impact on the town and people of Dupo.

I would like to thank Mr. Brimm for his service to this great country and to the people of the Dupo community throughout the years, and wish him well in his continued service with the V.F.W.

#### BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

#### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 9, 2002*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, Bert Foer of the American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, was scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, of which I am a member, on the university's important work in the critical field of desertification and water resources.

Unfortunately, because of the committee's deliberations on the supplemental appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2002, that hearing was canceled. Thus, members were unable to hear Mr. Foer's testimony about these efforts, which have received the support of Congress because of the essential role they play in the effort to achieve peace in the region.

As Mr. Foer stated in his prepared statement, even in the turmoil that is now occurring in the Middle East, water remains a central element of hope for the future. Ben-Gurion University and its Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research have played an important role in improving relations among the nations of the Middle East. The work of Dr. Eilon Adar, the director of the university's new Institute for Water Sciences and Technology, figured prominently in the critical water allocation process set forth in the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement of 1994. His efforts are perhaps even more important today.

Congress last year recommended that the Department of State and the Agency for International Development should consider up to \$1 million for the Institute to address the flow and transport of pollutants in groundwater in the region. This served to highlight the Institute's unique regional partnerships in applied water research.

Ben-Gurion University is situated on the edge of three of the world's four major dryland regions. This gives the university and its world-renowned research scientists a unique perspective on the challenges and solutions to regional water quality, supply and allocations issues—issues that surely will be key components of future peace negotiations. As Mr. Foer stated, even in the turmoil that is now occurring in the Middle East, water remains a central element of hope for the future.

Most of the ground water aquifers in the region are shared by at least two countries. In spite of the current conflict, water management agreements have remained in effect. Once all parties return to negotiations, the success of a lasting peace and security agreement will depend on the ability of all parties to agree on an equitable allocation of the region's scarce water resources. Thus, we should continue to support these essential initiatives.

Mr. Foer noted in his statement that we know the strains in the Middle East will not easily go away. But it is important that we seek out and support initiatives that address areas of tension and that provide opportunities for the nations of the region to work together on matters of mutual interest and interest.

The efforts of Ben-Gurion University and its Blaustein Institute are, as Mr. Foer so eloquently said in his statement, an investment in more than simply cleaner water. They are an investment in the peace process and in the cause of improved cooperation between Israel and its neighbors.

H. RES. 459

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 459, a bill expressing the sense of the House that Newdow v. U.S. Congress was erroneously decided.

Like many of my colleagues, I was disappointed and shocked that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. The Ninth Circuit ruling defies common sense and the timing of the decision couldn't be worse. Now more

than ever we as Americans remember the important purpose of our Pledge of Allegiance, stand in awe of the magnificent symbolism of our flag, and take pride in the triumphant chords of our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

Every day in this Chamber, we honor our nation by reciting the Pledge. Schoolchildren across our nation should be allowed to make that same statement, thus building a foundation of patriotism and citizenship. Generations of Americans regard the Pledge of Allegiance as a solemn statement of our nation's values. We must not allow this misguided decision to change that fact.

As a cosponsor of this important resolution, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 459.

#### GOD AND COUNTRY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 27, 2002*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I find the ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the Pledge of Allegiance an outrage. Labeling the Pledge unconstitutional and banning it from Public Schools is an uninformed and narrow-minded decision by a notoriously irresponsible and radical court.

Mr. Speaker, I denounce this decision, and for the record, I want to include the following remarks, which include quotations from some of our founding fathers as respects their view on religion and the law:

Any high school student with a basic knowledge of history and with a minimal interest in politics understands that there exists a strong separation of church and state in the United States today. This idea of separation is bitterly enforced by some politicians and always emerges as a hot topic in political debate.

But ask these same high school students about the religious beliefs of our founding fathers and the place of religion in the early history of our government, and you will probably find that their knowledge of these subjects is vague and incomplete.

In fact, many Americans today would be surprised to find out that the creators of our nation were profoundly religious, that many of them had no reservations about the role of God in our Government.

Yet, it is amazing to me that our understanding of the founding fathers and the creation of our country has been forgotten or ignored. For in one of our most cherished documents, The Declaration of Independence, which holds our most basic statement of our rights as Americans, we are told that it is "self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

It goes on, "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men . . ." It is as simple as that—our morality, the basis for our laws, comes from our Creator. Our government, or any democratic government for that matter, is based on our divinely inspired sense of right and wrong. This was an undisputed understanding amongst our founding fathers, which, somehow, escapes the modern imagination.